

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268707

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 268707 ACTION ALL AMERICAN
REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS USCINCSO 13 NOVEMBER 75.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: USG VIEWS ON OAS CHARTER REFORM

REF: STATE: 222524, 233247

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1. THE OAS GENERAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON CHARTER REVIEW IS NEAR-

ING THE END OF ITS WORK. PREDICTABLY, THE RESULT IS DISAPPOINTING TO THE US. AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE NEW CHARTER WITHOUT EXPRESSING FORMAL RESERVATIONS, BUT THIS IS NOT OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTION. IN OUR OPINION, THE NEW DRAFT IS AN AWKWARD, TENDENTIOUS DOCUMENT THAT HIGHLIGHTS DISAGREEMENTS AND DOES LITTLE TO MAKE THE OAS A SYMBOL OF COOPERATION. IF THE CURRENT PACE OF WORK CONTINUES, WE ANTICIPATE WE WILL REACH A DECISION STAGE BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER. OUR ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT SPEECH ON THE CHARTER AND ON OUR ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OAS TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE. WE NOW PLAN TO DELAY THIS UNTIL WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OPTIONS WITH YOU AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. OUR CONCERN NOW IS THAT YOU HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER OUR APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM AND GIVE US YOUR BEST ADVICE DURING YOUR CONSULTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

2. OUR BASIC OBJECTION TO NEW CHARTER IS THAT IT FAILS TO EMBODY ANY PROFOUND OR CONSENSUAL VISION OF WHAT OAS

SHOULD BE AND DO. INSTEAD, CURRENT LATIN NOTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN TACKED ONTO EXISTING CHARTER, RESULTING IN TURGID DOCUMENT FEW DELEGATIONS REALLY LIKE. WHAT BEGAN THREE YEARS AGO AS ENTHUSIASTIC EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE OAS HAS DEGENERATED INTO ONE OR TWO COUNTRY SHOW (PERU AND MEXICO) SUSTAINED BY INERTIA AND LATIN SOLIDARITY. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH COMPROMISE ON ARTICLES OFFENSIVE TO US (INVOLVING CALVO DOCTRINE AND LATIN INTERPRETATION OF "COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY") BUT WE WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS JUNCTURE PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY, NOT MERELY TO REACT, BUT TO VENTURE REAL EFFORT TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION OUT OF OAS.

3. COMPROMISING OUR DIFFERENCES OVER NEW TEXT OR STICKING WITH PRESENT CHARTER DO NOT RESOLVE THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM THAT LAY BEHIND ORIGINAL REFORM EFFORT -- DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT THE OAS IS AND DOES. OUR CONCERN IS NOT SIMPLY NEGATIVE ONE OF DELETING OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE FROM NEW TEXT OR DEFENDING STATUS QUO BASTIONS

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OF PRESENT CHARTER BUT RATHER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE TAKE THE OAS SERIOUSLY AND WANT OTHER MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

4. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS SERIOUS REFLECTION AT FOREIGN OFFICE LEVEL ABOUT REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS MEMBER STATES SHOULD HAVE OF OAS, WHAT IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SECURITY AND PROGRESS OF HEMISPHERE, HOW IT SHOULD BE STRUCTURED

TO FULFILL POTENTIAL AND WHETHEG SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES IT PROVIDES TO MEMBERSHIP, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, JUSTIFY GENUINE REFORM EFFORT. SUCH HIGH LEVEL CONSIDERATION SHOULD FACTOR IN VARIETY OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FACING OAS -- CREATION OF SELA AND PROLIFERATION OF MINI-STATES -- AS WELL AS GLARING INADEQUACIES OF OAS ITSELF -- INEFFICIENCY OF ITS ADMINISTRATION AND SOMEWHAT BLURRED IMAGE OF ITS PURPOSE.

5. WHAT WE ARE POINTING TOWARD IS NOT A PIECEMEAL REVIEW OF TEXT OF OAS CHARTER BUT FUNDAMENTAL RECONSIDERATION OF ITS IDENTITY. WE THINK WE SHOULD JOIN WITH OTHER SERIOUS FOREIGN MINISTRIES IN SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS ABOUT WHERE THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE HEADING. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, PREPONDERANT US FINANCING, "DEBATING SOCIETY" IMAGE OF PERMANENT COUNCIL, PROLIFERATION OF COMMITTEES, MOUNTING COST OF CUMBERSOME BUREAU-- WE WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS INH SERIOUS REFORM EFFORT. WITHOUT A REVIEW OF THESE CENTRAL ISSUES AND ACHIEVEMENT OF CONSENSUS ON OAS PRINCIPLES, EFFORTS OF CEESI AND PRESENT

SUBCOMMITTEE HAVE BEEN MERE EXERCISE IN WORDSMITHING.

6. CURRENT CHARTER WAS SIGNED AND RATIFIED BY ALL MEMBER STATES BUT THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON NEW TEXT'S SERIES OF HORTATORY ARTICLES ENSHRINING ECONOMIC DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN US AND MOST OTHER MEMBER STATES. SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS HAVE NO PLACE IN THE CHARTER OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ENTERED INTO FREELY AMONG SOVEREIGN STATES.

7. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERIOUSLY REFLECT ON THIS PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COM MEETING AT WHICH WE HOPE TO DEVOTE AN IMPORTANT SESSION TO THE FUTURE OF THE OAS. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO FORMALLY ENGAGE HOST GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TIME, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE PERSONAL AND INFORMAL APPROACHES TO SOME OF YOUR SERIOUS AND CONCERNED CONTACTS AS YOU PONDER THIS MATTER. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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